



Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society

November 2013

Next Meeting: Bethany Presbyterian Church November 21, 2013

Continuing this year's theme of Queen Anne churches, this month's meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Bethany Presbyterian Church at 1818 Queen Anne Ave. N. There are at least two very exciting reasons to tour this iconic neighborhood church and city landmark:

First, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the congregation's founding. Sylvia Lidell, a member of the church's centennial committee, and its staff will share the history with us. Second, the church building is a stellar example of historic preservation.

In 2011, the sanctuary was effectively gutted and the building successfully retrofitted to meet modern seismic standards. Even the steeple was reattached to its base with earthquake-safe reinforcements. What makes the work so good is the lack of exterior evidence of the renovations while the interior finishes have been recreated and are true to the original 1929 design. Steve Stroming, senior project manager at RAFN, the company that actually did the work, will discuss the job and show a slide presentation of how it happened.

Sylvia's presentation will be held in the parlor, a lovely room on the southwest corner of the fellowship hall wing



Bethany Presbyterian Church at 1818 Queen Anne Ave. N

that embraces Bethany's exquisite churchyard. Steven's presentation will take place in the sanctuary.

We will gather in the parlor at 7 p.m. for the brief meeting and election of Sheri Olson to the board. As usual, treats from *Le Rêve* and light refreshments will follow. Free on-street parking will be available nearby.

Sheri Olson: Candidate for Board of Directors

Sheri Olson's candidacy for the board of directors of the Queen Anne Historical Society will be presented at the special and very brief membership meeting preceding the November 21 events at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Sheri Olson, FAIA, is an award-winning architect and writer and, as you might guess, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. She was *Architectural Record's* Northwest-based contributing

editor for a decade, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* architecture critic and wrote several architectural monographs. In 2004, she founded Sheri Olson Architecture, PLLC, specializing in residential design. The *Seattle Times' Pacific Northwest Magazine*, *Inhabit* and *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles* have all featured her work. We look forward to electing Sheri to the board of the Queen Anne Historical Society.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

We continue to improve our website (www.qahistory.org), including better organization of our historical database and images. You can also "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Sacredness of Our Places of Worship.....	Page 2
President's Letter.....	Page 3
Kim's Musings.....	Page 4

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed in several areas. See the president's letter on page 3.

President's Letter

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

Seattle Children's Home Site

I am amazed by the Queen Anne Historical Society's constant engagement in the affairs of the community. This month the society's Landmarks Committee is tracking the nomination being prepared by NK Architects for the Toll Brothers, the site's new developers, of the Seattle Children's Home's original Infirmary and Laundry Building, later known as McGraw Cottage. This two-story building was completed circa 1909 at the northwest corner of the site at W. McGraw and 10th W. where the Toll Brothers are proposing the construction of over 65 townhouses.

The process is extremely important even if the Toll Brothers have commissioned the nomination with the idea of eventually securing permission to demolish the building. I confess to having misjudged the age and potential importance of the structure when first asked. I did not realize that it was built shortly after the Orphans Asylum's 1905 move to Queen Anne and that it housed sick residents. Once the city's Preservation Division posts the nomination (seattle.gov/neighborhoods), the society will take an informed position on whether the building merits landmark status.

Tours

Even though I wish there were many more tours, I am pleased that we continue to offer tours of the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery to school groups. This month Kim Turner and I escort the 8th grade class from St. Anne's Parish School. We will surely visit the burial site of the victims of the Everett Massacre where the IWW scattered Joe Hill's ashes.

Volunteers

I am delighted to report that Katherine Garvey has joined our team as editor of The Cobblestone.

Now we have two other important volunteer positions to fill.

After years of devoted service Verna Ness wants to step down as our archivist. We need to find someone to take over the care of our collections. We can provide training. Since the society does not collect objects, the collection is restricted to publications and works on paper, photographs, maps and ephemera documenting Queen Anne history. The archivist becomes familiar with Queen Anne history, decides what to take into the collection, makes sure the collection is protected from damage and documents the collection in PastPerfect, sophisticated software acquired this year.

We need an independent professional accountant who can review the society's books annually. We are confident that our financial records are in excellent shape. Sue Billings has been a very diligent treasurer, while board member Roger Billings, a CPA and Sue's husband, has regularly provided an annual statement. Roger is too close to the society to provide the kind of review – we do not need an audit – acceptable for certain grant applications, so we need to reach out.

If you are interested or know people who might volunteer, contact me at 206.412.0702 or mh982501@gmail.com



Queen Anne Historical Society Board & Officers 2013-2014

President

Michael Herschensohn
mh982501@gmail.com

Vice President

Aaron Luoma
luom1670@yahoo.com

Chair of Research Committee

Kim Turner
kim@qahistory.org

Secretary

Judy Barbour

Treasurer

Sue Billings
sueb@qahistory.org

Board Members

Roger Billings
rogerbillcpa@aol.com

Holly Smith
holly@qahistory.org

Verna Ness
vernness@yahoo.com

Nicole Demers-Changelo

Carol Scoggin

Chair of Landmarks Preservation Committee

Leanne Olson
leanne@qahistory.org

Cobblestone Editor

Katherine Garvey

Queen Anne Historical Society

Page 2

The Sacredness of Our Places of Worship

By Aaron Luoma, Vice President, Queen Anne Historical Society

The soft hum of an organ, the sunlight streaking through stain glass, the whistling of a teakettle or the song of a lark from your porch can stir up strong emotions in all of us. These triggers to our soul are elements of the sacredness of place that surround us everywhere.

A search for sacred places in our communities can begin by locating the designated places of worship. Perhaps more than any other built landmark, places of worship inherently produce a deep sense of attachment and regard by those who frequent them. Outsiders can also appreciate the history and architecture while not fully embracing the theology.

This year's theme for the Queen Anne Historical Society focuses on our neighborhood's places of worship. We've kept this theme specific to church buildings in our neighborhood, but the sacredness of our places of worship extends beyond the traditional built environment.

As preservationists, historians, designers and engaged citizens, the goal to preserve historic places of worship in our communities is a match made in heaven (pun fully intended). Faithful parishioners preserve these buildings over decades and even centuries. The buildings and grounds become opportunities for the faithful inside and outside of the organized church to partner to preserve meaningful and significant pieces of architectural and cultural history.

So, what's the common theme to build upon? Everyone worships.

Whether it's a local sports team, a literary

giant or a musical genius, we all love, adore and exalt something or someone. We choose to worship in spaces that are sacred, or become sacred, by our own efforts or an external deity. By pure intensity, frequency, and dedication, these spaces grow into holy sanctuaries simply called CenturyLink, the Key, Showbox, the Intiman, McCaw Hall or Benaroya.

In Queen Anne, we have many traditional places of worship such as Saint Anne's and Bethany as well as places like the 5 Spot, Kerry Park, Café Fiore, the Queen Anne Library or even our own homes.

Out of respect, or based on previous experiences, some may be hesitant to approach the preservation of sacred spaces that are not their own. This summer, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's blog¹ provided a series on preserving places of worship. It included 10 important questions that I think are really important to address when preserving sacred spaces, especially traditional places of worship. In addition, we would benefit by asking ourselves about the sacredness of the places where we worship before marching onto our neighbor's holy grounds. You may not attend an organized gathering on Sunday, but none of us are exempt from worship and experiencing sacred places.

Many places we're familiar with or in which we spend a great deal of time may not be perceived as sacred, but they very well may be places of worship to you, places that, if threatened, would be of serious concern.

Where do you worship? What is sacred to you? Have you ever moved from one

home to another, thinking you were so glad to be rid of all the burdens of your previous residence, only to be in tears in a few short hours over missing the stains on your old claw bath tub?

Perhaps you've never taken the time to think about this, and the truth is, many members of traditional places of worship may not have either. Come join the Queen Anne Historical Society this year and discover the sacredness of several traditional places of worship while connecting with your own understanding of what makes a place sacred.

Figure 1: This summer, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's blog provided a series on preserving places of worship, which included 10 important questions:

1. How does this congregation relate to the community?
2. What tangible connections to their history does the building provide the congregation?
3. Are you speaking the right language?
4. Who are the decision makers?
5. Is the building "officially" historic?
6. Why is the building endangered?
7. Which is the best building to use?
8. What happens to unneeded buildings?
9. Is there an opportunity to share the space?
10. How can I help the congregation be better stewards of their building?

¹ <http://blog.preservationnation.org/2013/07/30/10-on-tuesday-how-to-preserve-places-of-worship-part-one/>

Queen Anne Historical Society

P.O. Box 19432
Seattle, Washington 98109-1432

www.qahistory.org



“KINNEAR HOME”

Kim's Musings: The Churches of Queen Anne Hill

By Kim Turner, Chair of Research Committee

As you know, our 2013-14 theme is the churches of Queen Anne Hill. The neighborhood has seen a fair number of churches come and go over the last 120 years. In 1900, the city had 110 churches and by 1909 that number grew to 207. Of these, one small but significant one stands out, not by its existence, but its lack of advertising. This was the Tabernacle Christian Church or Queen Anne Christian Church. It was organized in November 1906, with 45 charter members. The Rev. J. L. Greenhill of Mississippi was called to the pulpit and took over the church July 1, 1907. It then had 75 members; by December 26, 1907, the enrollment had increased to 125.

When it was organized, the temporary structure was known as the Tabernacle. Built in just 48 hours, it was used for one

year. It stood on a lot at First Avenue West and West Galer Street and was entirely paid for by members. A new church was to be built on the same site; the congregation expected to receive a loan of \$10,000 from the Church Extension Board, and the members planned to raise the additional sum of \$15,000, which would be spent on the church.

At its annual meeting in January 1909, the congregation decided to abolish the system of collecting funds in the church through holding dinners and entertainment. Direct donations were deemed a better way in which to finance the church through a system of distinct supervision inaugurated by the election of superintendents. The congregation, which had been worshipping in Highland Baptist Mission on Garfield Street near

Queen Anne Avenue, held its last service in the Mission on September 24, 1911. Its new building, under construction, was located at Third West and West Lee Street and was ready for use in October, 1911, with the dedication service being held the first Sunday that month. The membership at that time was 250. The total value of the church property, including the lot and furnishings, was estimated at \$20,000. The church was still in existence in 1937 when the WPA history of Seattle churches was put together.

Today the church stands as a singularly quiet yet still-used church facility, neither tooting the horn of religion nor attempting to be other than what it is: a quiet, older church whose constituents still worship as they did the past 100 years. You may walk by at 1316 3rd Ave.W.